

A JOURNEY TO MICHIGAN Welcome MSUE Coordinator – Barslund Judd

“Michigan feels like home.” Barslund shares. “I am at the point in my life that I just want to stay in one place.”

For more than three generations Barslund’s family has sustained lifestyles that have taken them across the country. Both his paternal and maternal great-grandparents immigrated to this country opening the doors to opportunity and adventure.¹

“My Grandfather Leslie Judd, was a migrant farmer covering everything between California and Oklahoma - agriculture was his whole life. His family was in the Arvin camp which was written about in the Grapes of Wrath,” Barslund shares.

Great-Grandfather Bohannon (His paternal Great-Grandfather) was also a “folk healer/herbalist who collected wild plants.” Barslund continues, “He had a rack underneath his bed where he would dry the herbs. People would come from all around town and give him silver dollars to pay for his remedies.” Victor Barslund Petersen, his maternal Great-Grandfather (Barslund’s namesake – the name of the farm in the town of Tarm where his family originated) migrated from Denmark arriving at Ellis Island in 1924. A man with grit and adventure, “moved from New York to Chicago where he briefly owned a business selling donuts and then onto a Danish settlement in Iowa where he farmed the rest of his life.”



¹ Barslund’s paternal family has been here since the 1700s, mostly they immigrated from England, Ireland, and Scotland. His mother’s father’s family were Danish Immigrants. Barslund’s mother’s, father’s, father (Victor Barslund Petersen) and mother, came from Denmark and lived in a Danish colony in Iowa.

CLICK ON THESE
LINKS TO GO TO PAGE

[Feature Article Pg. 2-4](#)

[Educational Ops Pg. 5-6](#)

[Hot Buzzzzz Pg. 7](#)

[Garden to Table Pg. 8](#)

[Announcements Pg. 11](#)

[From the President
Pg. 10](#)

[Save the Date Pg. 11](#)

MGAGCM MISSION STATEMENT

The Master Gardener Association of Genesee County is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes, specifically to instruct adults and youth in horticulture science, to educate communities about environmentally sound practices through horticulture-based activities, to promote food security and to improve the esthetic of our community. This Chapter is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes and consistent with the purposes and mission of the Michigan Master Gardener Association, Inc. (MMGA)

Feature Article Continued from page 1

“This life of wandering continued with his grandfather who was a medic in the Marines moving from base-to-base. Later he acquired his forestry degree on the GI bill to work as a groundskeeper/ horticulturalist. Barslund’s father worked as a coal miner, a riverboat engineer on the Mississippi, and then a mechanic before going back to school - leading to a career as a nuclear engineer, to work on cooling systems for power-plants. “Doing maintenance on the plants during outages and shutdown, we would travel from place-to-place, living months at a time in off-season vacation homes. It was a different experience,” Barslund shares, “but being home-schooled allowed me to pursue what I was most interested in – plants and biology.” Since I was a small kid I wanted to be a horticulturalist,” Barslund continues. Little wonder, as one considers a heritage of farming and horticulture, even including an herbalist! Through his young years Barslund loved gardening, visiting conservatories; and, in his younger years, being nurtured by his Grandfather and Grandmother Peterson, who enriched his life with their history of agriculture.

Barslund treasures his family - with his life-long friendships coming in a close second. He heartwarmingly recalls time spent with his Boy Scout buddies, “foraging for wild onions and berries, exploring the forests and swimming in waterholes and under waterfalls”. During summers he would have fun with his 4-H friends catching frogs and gardening. Relating one of his best exploring experiences he tells of his favorite place to hike. “As staff at the Virginia Boy Scout camp I would take free time to hike the trail that went over a ridge. Looking down into a valley you could see the whole lake and the mountains on the other side. When you came down from the mountain into the valley, mountain laurel and giant rhododendron surrounded you like a cavern.”



Reflecting on Barslund’s life thus far, it would seem there was no other road for him than that of Horticulture. Indeed, but not before a 13-year career in electronics. While repairing and installing 2-way radio systems in medical vehicles Barslund satisfied his love of growing plants by surrounding his home in beautiful gardens. His face lights up as he describes his home in Roanoke, Virginia. “It had huge gardens and I would host garden parties and cookouts.” Adding, “I love orchids and would nurture them all winter to set around the porches outside during the summer months.”

Continued on Page 3

[RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)

Feature Article Continued from page 2

Six years ago Barslund knew it was time to pursue his dream – a career in horticulture. Going onto grad school at Virginia Tech, Barslund choose hop cultivars for his thesis,¹ specifically focused on nutrient deficiencies and powdery mildew in hop cultivars. Upon completing his degree this past fall he knew right away how he wanted to fulfill his passion and where that was going to lead him. “I have a lot of fond memories of Michigan so when I started looking for jobs this was one of the main areas. When I was going to grad school I decided I wanted to get my masters in horticulture because I wanted to get a job with the university extension. I wanted to be an extension agent. It all came down to finding an extension job in Michigan.”

¹ [Hops Production in Virginia](#); Nutrition, Fungal Pathogens and Cultivar Trials; Thesis by Barslund Judd

History of Hops

“Hop (*Humulus lupulus*) production in the United States (US) has a long history with records of hop production dating back to the 1700s. Thomas Jefferson, for example, grew hops at Monticello, which he used to produce his own ale. The first commercial hop farm, located in Massachusetts, was built in 1648 and covered 18.2 hectares (Barth et al., 1994). For 150 years, Massachusetts dominated hop production. In the mid-1800s, New York displaced Massachusetts as the largest producer of hops. Eventually, the Pacific Northwest (PNW) became a favored region for hop production, and when prohibition began, production in the northeastern United States waned. In more recent years, interest in local food and beverage production has spurred the establishment of craft breweries. As local craft breweries continue to open, hop demand is expected to rise.”

“Hops like Simcoe® and Citra® are proprietary. Proprietary hops are developed and patented by private companies. This means that only licensed growers can grow them. As a result, these hops are often hard or impossible for small growers to obtain. Due to the controlled nature of their production, small brewers might also have problems obtaining them. For these reasons, smaller farms often rely on older cultivars that are publicly available. Many local breweries and growers are now revisiting cultivars that had previously fallen out of favor. Publicly available cultivars are important for brewers that want hops from local farms as the majority of proprietary cultivars are grown in the Yakima Valley.”

For more information about hop cultivars in Michigan you can reference this article by Jay Bushen; [Demand for Proprietary Varieties Hampers Michigan](#);

Feature Article Continued from page 3

When you meet Barslund, you are immediately brought in with his welcoming spirit and bright smile. His good-natured demeanor is infectious and within minutes you are enjoying a very pleasant discussion about a very interesting topic.

It is this spirit of welcoming that Barslund brings to MGAGCM and wishes to build relationships within the association and the community.

“The majority of my job is consumer horticulture,” Barslund explains, “I actually wear two titles, Master Gardener Coordinator and Consumer/Horticultural Instructor.” Consumer horticulture focuses on educating the local community to help improve their lives. This is done by providing community members with the information that they need to do their jobs better – “raise healthy and safe families, build their communities and empower their children to dream of a successful future.”¹ As a first step in fulfilling this mission Barslund would like to offer community-based educational opportunities. “My goal here is to get out into the community and to start setting up classes on topics like lawn-care and gardening. My hope is to have Master Gardeners contributing to the outreach so that we can develop a path to building personal relationships within the greater community.”

The Old Virginia Brick Company in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia began mining in 1890, claiming the crushed shells within the mountain, using the material in a mix with red clay to manufacture bricks. Barslund describes the site as a “mountain with a giant pit at the basin - with cuts through the mountain creating tunnels previously used to move the material along to trucks.” But it was what he saw in the abandoned worksite that has left a lifetime impression. “Sitting on top of the mountain and looking down into the valley below I was filled with awe seeing the giant pine trees surrounding a little pond. It was beautiful looking out on how nature had reclaimed what was always hers.”



Growing on a foundation is at the heart of Barslund’s heritage and gives light to his forward thinking of growing the extension program, from building relationships to growing educational opportunities; a wonderful outlook for the future of MSU Extension in Genesee County.

Footnotes

References

1 MSU Extension; [What is Extension](#)

Barslund Judd Interview February 4, 2019 conducted by and article written by Kit Puroll for March, 2019 DTE Newsletter.

[RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)

Conferences and Educational Opportunities

Master Gardeners of Clair County

The 2019 Spring Symposium “Turning over a New Leaf”

Location: St. Clair Middle School; 4335 Yankee Road; St. Clair, MI 48079

Date: March 16th Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Cost: Registration fee: \$95.00 After February 24th Late Registration fee: \$105

Brochure and Registration: [2019 Spring Symposium](#)

Brief Description:

This entire Symposium is for established gardeners looking for the best placement, selection and replacement to obtain the garden of their dreams.

Speakers:

- The best trees and shrubs, new and old, those worthy of our limited real estate, by **Andrew Bunting**.
- Perennials worth making room for, new and old, by **Kelly Norris**. Perennials that have proven themselves to return and perform year after year. Who are they?
- Coming all the way from the Netherlands, **Jacqueline van der Kloet**, will speak on bulbs for multiple seasons and using them to layer your garden.

Pollinator Champions

Location: Online – 4 Units – 6 Educational Hours

Date: Ongoing

Cost: Free

Brochure and Registration: [Pollinator Champions](#)

Description: Become a champion for pollinators. Pollinator Champions is a free, self-paced online course offered by Michigan State University. The course is packed full of videos, articles, and fun activities to guide you through the amazing world of pollinators and pollination. Click the link above to register. Everyone is welcome to learn about pollinators for free, but for a small fee, you can receive a certificate and materials to help you give presentations about pollinators. Help us spread the word as an MSU Certified Pollinator Champion.

Tuscola Conservation District presents 10th annual Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop

Location: Saginaw Valley Research Extension Center; 3775 S Reese; Frankenmuth

Date: Wednesday, March 13th Time: 8:30- Noon

Cost: Free

Brochure/Registration: RSVP: 989-673-8174, Ext 3

Description: Bob Tritton, MSU Fruit Tree Educator for SE Michigan

Conferences and Educational Opportunities

The Fascinating World of Ants

Location: Webinar 1.5 Educational Hours

Date: Tuesday, March 5th Time 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Cost: Free – Register early

Brochure and Registration: [The Facinating World of Ants](#)

Description: Speaker: Dr. Erwin 'Duke' Elsner, aka The Bug Man. Almost everybody knows a bit about ants - they are insects, most of them are small, and they can be quite annoying when they get into a house. Some species do have the potential to be serious household pests, some can sting and be hazardous, but most are no trouble at all. Pests or not, there is a lot to know about these fascinating creatures! This session will feature information on several common species of ants found in Michigan, including identification, nesting preferences, food preferences, understanding ant behavior, and management
Registration Deadline: Sunday, March 3, 2019

The 2019 International Master Gardener Conference (IMGC)

Location: Valley Forge Casino Resort; 1160 First Avenue; King of Prussia, PA 19406

Date: June 17 -21, 2019

Cost: \$390 April 15, 2019 until Close of Registration: May 23, 2019

Brochure and Registration: [2019 International Master Gardener Conference](#)

Description: Keynote: John Bartram Lives – Kirk Brown; Break out sessions with several renown experts

How to Grow and Use Luffa (Loofah) with Janice Cox

Herb Society of America

Location: Webinar

Date: Wednesday, May 15th 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Cost: Free for members, \$5 for all others.

Brochure and Registration: No information was available on how to register. Visit [Herb Society](#)

Description:

You may be surprised and delighted to learn that Luffa (Loofah) sponges do not come from the sea but are a vegetable in the gourd and cucumber family and can easily be grown in your own home garden. These vegetable scrubbers are easy and fun to grow. Learn planting and growing tips as well as a few recipes for using your sponges. Luffas are best known for their skin scrubbing abilities, keeping our skin fresh and clean. Young plants are also edible and delicious. Recipes for luffa soap, skin scrub and stir-fry will be provided.

Please note that conferences and webinars fill quickly – it is important to register early. Some events and conferences are not included on this list due to the registration deadlines having passed or are closed.

[RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)



Well, readers, now that we are on the other side of that frigid polar vortex (hopefully), we can clear our heads and talk about more pleasant subjects -- like gardening and such! I very recently attended a training class for Hotline volunteers where we learned more about the diagnostic side of fielding questions. Hopefully what we learned will translate into even better information flow to callers and, in my case, greater confidence and trust in all the great resources at our disposal.

Winter Vortex Effects



And while we're on the subject of the vortex, some may have concerns about how the extreme weather might affect our landscape plants come spring. One occurrence that should help is the snowfall we had immediately preceding the vortex, which serves as insulation for perennials and low-lying shrubs. Although we won't definitively know the damage until spring, this article from MSU Extension will lay some of our fears to rest (the last section after the table speaks to our local hardiness zone-6a). [Extent of cold](#)

[injury to landscape plants from the Polar Vortex](#); MSUE; January, 2014

A February caller wanted to know why his lawn is "torn up"

I had to work backwards from the answer that was given in the logs to determine what was meant by "torn up"! The Hotline volunteer probably asked what type of damage the caller was seeing. The caller was told it was likely damage from raccoons, skunks, moles or squirrels. The damage was likely done in the growing season or during the fall, but types of moles can do their dirty work in partially frozen ground! Read on: [Who's that Digging in my Yard](#); MSUE, February, 2013



How do I keep squirrels out of my birdfeeder?

Since squirrels need something to launch or climb from, try moving your birdfeeder at least 10 feet from a tree, fence, house etc. It stands to reason that the feeder and the device the feeder hangs or sits on, needs to be far enough off the ground so it isn't climbable. The good news is that there are many ways to deter or stop these cuties from hogging all your birdseed. The bad news is that

squirrels are smart and are probably watching you rig up the contraption so they can eventually defeat it. I have personally had good luck with stand-alone shepherd's hooks but I think the squirrels have started having meetings about that. Read on for more ideas: Coles County Wild Things; [Outsmarting Squirrels at Birdfeeders](#); University of Iowa Extension.

Researched and written by LaDonna Gamble; February, 2019

[RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)



RECIPES & MORE

KIT'S DECADENTLY INDECENT CHILI

Winner of the Oxford Chili Cook-Off

Directions

- 1. Place a large cast iron Dutch oven over medium heat, sauté sausage until well browned (ok to add ¼ cup of water) transfer to paper towel and drain.*
- 2. Heat oil in the Dutch oven over low heat, add onions & garlic & cook until wilted (5 minutes)*
- 3. Raise heat to medium & crumble in ground sirloin, stir frequently to break up pieces until browned.*
- 4. Add drained sausage, bell and jalapeno peppers to Dutch oven; stir frequently until peppers are wilted (10 minutes)*
- 5. Remove Dutch oven from heat & stir in drained tomatoes, vinegar, parsley, tomato paste & beans and all herbs & spices (do not add fresh tomatoes).*
- 6. Return Dutch oven to simmer for one hour or in a crock-pot for several hours to savor.*

Ingredients

- 1 lb sweet Italian sausage cut into 1 inch pieces
- 2 lb ground sirloin
- 2 cups coarsely chopped onions
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 green bell pepper, cored, seeded & coarsely chopped
- 1 yellow bell pepper, cored, seeded & coarsely chopped
- ½ cup shredded carrot
- 1/3 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 cup chopped fresh parsley
- ½ cup tomato paste
- 1 tbsp chili powder
- 3 tbsp cumin
- 2 tbsp onion powder
- 1 tbsp garlic powder
- 2 tbsp oregano
- 2 tbsp freshly ground pepper
- 2- 35 oz cans of Italian plum tomatoes drained 4 cups)
- 2 – 15oz can dark red kidney beans
- 1 – 15 oz can black beans
- 1 – 15 oz white kidney beans
- 1 cup frozen corn

Optional grated Mexican 5 cheese for garnish
optional sour cream for garnish
Optional sliced scallions

Serve with assorted garnishments and lots of fresh crusty bread or in a bread bowl!

Bon Appetite!

Submitted by Kit Puroll

MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER

PAGE 9



THINK SPRING WORD SEARCH

Z	K	Z	M	K	P	C	A	E	E	B	P	V	B	T
Y	Z	A	E	G	N	A	R	D	Y	H	R	E	T	V
L	S	Z	H	Z	Z	Y	N	T	U	L	I	P	P	D
D	A	H	L	I	A	Z	E	M	N	C	Z	D	A	J
M	C	S	C	W	F	O	D	R	L	E	O	J	N	F
L	X	Z	Y	Q	U	R	S	L	K	G	C	X	S	T
S	H	Y	A	C	I	N	T	H	W	M	H	T	Y	W
O	T	R	G	P	L	C	R	O	C	U	S	R	A	A
I	T	U	B	O	K	I	O	R	Y	N	O	E	P	R
L	S	F	C	L	X	D	D	P	A	L	M	Y	R	Q
B	O	Z	F	L	O	E	S	O	R	M	I	R	P	K
I	P	J	C	E	E	H	E	S	F	J	G	L	J	L
N	M	K	Q	N	W	Z	V	J	O	F	G	W	A	T
F	O	R	S	Y	N	T	H	I	A	F	A	S	O	C
G	C	I	K	Z	U	I	J	M	P	U	W	D	T	Z

TULIP
POLLEN
NECTAR
DAHLIA
COMPOST
SOIL
DAFFODIL
PANSY
CROCUS
HYACINTH
PEONY
PRIMROSE
LILAC
DOGWOOD
FORSTHIA
BEE
HYDRANGEA

Words from the President

Happy March to each of you. We have experienced some very hard winter weather, but Spring is just around the corner. I want to thank the member who recently sent an email to the board with concerns and ideas for the membership. As President of MGAGCM I was delighted to receive these suggestions, as were the other board members. The ideas were well received and hopefully we can see these suggestions become a reality in the near future.

This email also raised the consideration that perhaps there are other members who have ideas, concerns or questions that have not been shared. We welcome all member's thoughts and contributions, and would like to take steps to encourage more opportunities for communication. In that effort, we are creating a survey to reach out to members for their input to create an environment that is welcoming and inclusive of all members needs and interests. You will be receiving the survey in an email in the near future. We are looking forward to hearing from each of you.

This membership belongs to all of us and we, the board, want to work together with you to make this membership a fun and friendly experience that provides opportunities to network and learn from each other. We value you and the time each of you invest in your project sites, and want to support you in your commitment and dedication.

Another opportunity to build friendships and better communication is during our monthly meetings. Do you always sit with the same people? Are there people you don't know or have never talked to? I invite you to join me in reaching out to the new members and those that we do not know – making all feel welcomed and open the door to sharing great ideas together.

You are always invited to talk to any board member to discuss anything that is on your mind. Please let us know what we can do to make your Master Gardner experience the best for you.

Let's Continue to Move Forward,
Vicki Laurin

MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER

PAGE 11

MGAGCM OFFICERS (2019)

President	Vicki Laurin
810-744-0725	laurinvicki@gmail.com
1st Vice President	Mel Kennedy
810-275-8822	mkennedy60@charter.com
2nd Vice President	Alan Grove
810-922-8776	plantdoc049@outlook.com
Secretary	Dick Moldenhauer
810-695-2649	rnmold1050@aol.com
Treasurer	Bobbi Parkhill
630-408-1710	bpark141@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE MARCH 2019

Sat, Mar 02, 2019	2019 Grand Rapids Smart Gardening Conference
Mon, Mar 04, 2019	Master Gardener MGAGCM Bd Mtg.
Wed, Mar 13, 2019	Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop
Fri, Mar 15, 2019	Hosta College - Piqua OH
Thu, Mar 21, 2019	MGAGCM meeting: Diane Ryllewski Topic: Hops
Sun, Mar 24, 2019	Last Day to Register for Gardening and All That Jazz

MARCH SNACK PROVIDERS

Deb Hilton
Colleen Putinsky
Kay McCullough

THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED BY

Vicki Laurin, laurinvicki@gmail.com.
Kit Puroll, all_4_adventure@hotmail.com
Edited by Sylvia Hansen

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES

[MMGA Inc Website](#)
[MMGA Inc Facebook Page](#)
[MGAGCM Website](#)
[MGAGCM Facebook Page](#)

LEAD VMS AMBASSADOR

Michelle Chockley
810-210-6685 (cell)
chockleym@gmail.com

MSU Extension-Genesee
605 N. Saginaw St. Suite 1A
Flint, MI 48502
(810) 244-8500

Plant & Pest Hotline

(810) 244-8548
Hours: Hotline winter hours are: Friday,
9:00 am to 12:00 pm.
geneseeplantpest@anr.msu.edu

Public Office Hours:

8 am - 12:00 and 1:00 pm-4:00 pm
Monday through Friday

[RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)

MSU EXTENSION-GENESEE COUNTY

605 N. Saginaw St.

Suite 1A

FLINT, MI 48502

www.msue.msu.edu/genesee

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

March 2019 MGAGCM Speaker
Diane Brown-Ryllewski
Ingham County Master Gardener Coordinator
Hops in Michigan Presentation

Diane obtained a B.S. in Entomology and a M.S. in Plant Pathology. In her 17 years with Michigan State she has worked with Michigan Hop growers to create resources for developing industry, worked with commercial growers, served as a field crops pathologist and Nursery and Landscape IPM integrator.

MGAGCM DOWN TO EARTH NEWSLETTER

